

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE
SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mrs. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2) "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year 2004," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. BREAU, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 1298.

HOMELAND HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to bring to the attention of the body another member of a group that we are referring to as homeland heroes. This is a group that has not had the attention that it deserves. It is a group of people who have suffered mightily as a result of the fact that the Federal Government has chosen to abandon them. And yet they fight on, sometimes facing overwhelming odds, sometimes facing the scorn of many of the people in their own community, some of the members of the press. But, nonetheless, they fight on for their own lives, for their life-style, and for the generations behind them that have paved the way for their existence in the area around Douglas, Arizona, and on our southern border even beyond that.

Tonight I want to pay a tribute to a lady I had the opportunity, the great opportunity to meet when I visited the Douglas, Arizona, area a couple of months ago. She came at that time to tell her story, and I found it quite compelling. Her name is Olga Robles. She is a second-generation Mexican American. She lives in Douglas, Arizona. Olga Robles describes herself as an American citizen with Mexican roots. That is where she got into trouble with her Mexican neighbors about a half mile south of her home in Douglas, Arizona. Olga Robles is criticized and attacked because she does not want to be called a Mexican American. She says she is not a hyphenated American. She

is 100 percent American. She was born, raised, and educated in Douglas, Arizona.

For the first 18 years of her life, she lived two blocks from the Arizona-Mexico border. Her mother still lives in that house, and Olga is a full-time caretaker for her mother, who is now 89 years old. Her own home is eight blocks from the border. She is married to Frank Robles, a retired Phelps Dodge worker, and has two sons. She is a registered nurse and has worked at Douglas Hospital as a health professional and as a health professional for EPA and Vision Quest.

From 1979 to 1984, she was an elected local official, a councilwoman in the city of Douglas. She served her community with dignity and great energy. All her life she had been a hardworking citizen, and she is widely known and respected in her community.

Why do I call Olga Robles a homeland hero? I do so because she has suffered, and she is suffering today, for standing up for her rights as a citizen and speaking out against the permissive policies that this government employs toward illegal aliens. She has been personally vilified and shunned by the advocates of unrestricted immigration and proponents of open borders. When she speaks openly and candidly about the problems caused by illegal aliens, she is attacked and told to shut up and "be a good Mexican."

In December, 1999, she was attacked and vilified by name in the Mexican newspaper *El Clarion* in the town of Agua Prieta, a town right on the border. She was called a traitor and a racist for opposing illegal immigration. She was called these things for saying that the laws of this land should be upheld, the laws that she has obeyed, the laws her family has obeyed, the laws that she has every single right to expect her neighbors and her countrymen to obey.

One illegal alien who was caught on her property told her angrily, "We have a right to be here. Santa Ana sold it too cheap, and we want it back."

Now, Olga Robles grew up two blocks from the border and had Mexican parents and grandparents. She said she never had a personal problem with illegal aliens until about 10 years ago, when the situation changed. And, Mr. Speaker, it is amazing to me that time after time, as I have come to this floor and introduced this topic and sort of inducted someone into the Hall of Homeland Heroes, that there is a similarity in their stories. They have all been living through very difficult times. They have all been challenged by what is happening on the border, by the flow of illegal immigration into this country, and they all say it is a relatively recent or relatively new phenomenon.

Beginning in the early 1990s, the illegal aliens started coming across the border in larger numbers, she says. About 5 years ago, the flow of illegal aliens through Douglas became really

heavy and created a big increase in local crime. The illegal aliens have torn down the fences on her property seven times as they hurry to get through her yard and further away from the border. She would call police and the police would say, we cannot do anything; they are illegals. Call the border patrol.

Now, every single resident of Douglas, Arizona, and in every city in this Nation has a right to expect their local police department to come and help them if their rights are being violated, if their land is being despoiled, if their property is being destroyed. But along the border, this has become commonplace, and police departments, for one reason or another, have decided to shirk their own responsibility and duties. And I will tell you there are sheriff departments and police departments along that border that have become corrupted by the phenomenon of illegal immigration and the drug money that is attendant to it.

□ 2045

Mr. Speaker, they told a resident of the city to forget about it. They are illegal aliens. It is somebody else's problem. No, it is the problem of any law enforcement official in the United States of America. When she did call the Border Patrol, they would come too late and never capture anyone.

Because there has been a lot of attention paid to the problems in Douglas, Arizona, and because there has been a lot of attention paid to the problems with the administration in Douglas, Arizona, with the mayor and other members of the city administration, because people are becoming concerned that their city government may not be in fact as responsive as it should be on these issues and there may be reasons for that, allegations of corruption certainly abound, and because of that, things are beginning to change in Douglas.

Police now come quicker and will apprehend illegal aliens if they are breaking the law, and they will turn them over to the Border Patrol. Illegal aliens often showed up in her yard in broad daylight. If she called the Border Patrol, the aliens would threaten her and call her names.

There are people who bring people into this country illegally and get paid for that. There is a story about this kind of thing happening in the papers here recently. It is a horrible, horrible story about the death of 19 people, including a small child, as a result of the actions taken by people who were smuggling these folks into the United States illegally. They are called coyotes, who are Mexican tour guides, in quotes, who will help a group of illegal aliens get across the border for a hefty price of between \$1,000 and \$1,500. These coyotes scout out vacant houses in Douglas and the surrounding area and tell the illegal aliens how to find them. They become safe houses. These vacant homes and homes for sale are fair game for these criminal gangs.

The drug cartels on the Mexican side of the border are very well organized and sometimes very ingenious. Drug smugglers equip trucks and vans with corporate logos from local companies like Quest and have also used trucks disguised as City of Douglas vehicles.

Not long ago, it was an interesting event down there on the border where they had actually stolen a vehicle, drug smugglers had stolen a vehicle that looked like a vehicle that would be used by the Border Patrol. They took it into Mexico. They carefully and with great precision painted the vehicle so it looked exactly like a Border Patrol vehicle. They put the wire mesh inside and even got U.S. Government license plates put on the vehicle, and they used it to smuggle drugs into the United States.

Now, these things are all happening right in sight of Olga and her family and her friends. These things happen every day. She observes them and calls the police. She does what a good citizen of this country should do. She expects her government to help her. It has been very late in responding and very hesitant to do so, and it only responds to her demands, to her concerns, when the pressure gets so great that they cannot look the other way.

So one of the things I hope to do by creating this Hall of Homeland Heroes is to keep the pressure on. I want the people in Douglas, Arizona, I want that mayor in Douglas, Arizona, to know that people are watching him; and I want the police force to know that there are folks who are interested in how well they are enforcing the law. I want people to know throughout this land that there is great concern about what is happening to the cities and towns, police departments, even Border Patrol agents, customs officials.

I want them to wonder what is happening around that border, because there is a great deal of corruption spilling over from the Mexican side, all brought about as a result of the drug trade and the trade in human beings. You can not only smuggle a Mexican national into the United States for between \$1,000 to \$1,500, and when we consider how many come across that border every day, tens of thousands a day, it becomes big money. But you can get an even bigger price, demand a lot more money, up to \$30,000 to smuggle someone into the United States who is coming from a Middle East country, coming from a country on the Terrorist Watch List.

In fact, there is a road not too far from Douglas, Arizona, that the locals refer to as the Arab highway, the Arab road, because so many people from the Middle East come across that road being smuggled in by these coyotes. For \$30,000, maybe you get better transportation, you get business class transportation into the United States. It is a very lucrative endeavor. You combine that with the drug trade on the border, and we can see why there is a corrupting influence on the border.

We have evidence of high school students along the border driving big brand new cars and SUVs and trucks, and when you try to find out how they could possibly get the money, they have been working for the people or drug smugglers. You can make a lot of money in a very short period of time doing something illegal along that border.

As I mentioned before, Olga Robles is a registered nurse. She has personally witnessed the decline in health care services in her community because of the financial impact of the flood of illegal aliens who must by law be treated, but they do not pay the bills. The Southeast Medical Center in Douglas, Arizona, is almost closed now. It offers only emergency room services, and if this particular facility closes we were told when we were down there, and, as I say, the threat of the closure of this facility is very real, and it is coming about because they have had to provide services to illegal aliens coming across the border by the thousands, and they get no reimbursement for it, and if that place closes, there is no facility like it around for a hundred miles in any direction.

A citizen who needs to see a specialist must now go to Wilcox or Tucson, whereas specialists used to come to Douglas and see patients at the Southeast Medical Center. There is no longer an OB/GYN service in Douglas. Women must go to Bisby to see their specialist or have a baby. Olga Robles has seen this problem grow and grow over the past decade. She has had personal encounters on her own property and suffered vilification for speaking out against our lax Border Patrol and law enforcement.

But Mrs. Robles' primary concern, her main worry is not for her personal safety or her property, she is mostly worried about what is happening to her country, her country. She worries about what is happening to her city's schools where overcrowding is directly traced to the hundreds of children coming in from across the border illegally. They falsify their residency, and no one from the school district checks up on them.

She worries about the impact on local hospitals and medical services. She worries about the rising crime rate. She worries about the influence of drug cartels on the American side of the border. The corruption of Mexican police and military is now taken for granted by her and most residents of Cochise County, but it is now seeping into the Arizona side of local government and law enforcement.

People in the Douglas area in Cochise County wonder about their own sheriff. His reluctance to become involved with the issues of drug smuggling and people smuggling make people wonder why. Ms. Robles worries about the growth of drug abuse among schoolchildren throughout the county because marijuana and cocaine are so widely available.

I think we should honor citizens like Olga, and there are thousands and thousands more like her, but they do not have the courage to speak out. We should all recognize the fact that they exist, their stories deserve to be told just like Olga's, but they do not have the courage to come forward for fear of what their own community might do to them. Olga is a woman of great courage. She is an American with Mexican roots. She welcomes new Mexican immigrants who come here legally and want to become American citizens, as we all do and should welcome anyone who wants to come to this country legally and become American citizens.

What we should not welcome is the massive flow of illegal aliens. I salute Olga Robles for her courage and integrity, and I hope that some day the political leaders of this country will follow her example.

There are many other stories. I will be bringing more to the floor of the House in the weeks to come of the people whom we are inducting into the Homeland Hall of Heroes. This is one way that we want to try and get the story across to the American people.

This is a challenging experience to try and get this story across to the American people. Because what you find, what amazingly you find is, for the most part, the American people are pretty much aware of it. They get it. Poll after poll tells us that large, vast majorities, 70 percent of the American people when polled say there is something wrong, there is something desperately wrong with our immigration policy. We should review it. We should secure our borders. We should make it more difficult for people to come into this country illegally. We should find people who are here illegally and deport them and operate a system like every other nation on the face of the earth where we try to actually control the flow of people into this country so it benefits this country and the people coming in.

Most people get it. Most Americans understand it. Why then is it so hard for my colleagues to get it? Why is it so hard for the administration to get the point? People want their borders secure. How much more clearly can we present this issue? How much more of an outcry can there be from American citizens like Mrs. Robles? How many more people have to die coming into this country illegally, as the 19 people who died in the back of that truck, in the back of that semi, including one small child, while they were tearing away the panels on the truck exterior to try to get air?

□ 2100

Imagine the horror inside of that truck. Imagine the screaming. Imagine the prayers. And now imagine some of the causes for that kind of thing to happen. Certainly, if you are looking around for blame, you say, well, they came here illegally. They took a risk. That is true. And some of the blame

rests with them, with the 80 or more people who paid the coyote to help them break the laws of this country to come in here and get a job, seek a better life as most people coming into the country do. So some of the blame rests with them, that is true; but there is a lot of blame to go around. I hope that the lesson, if any lesson is learned by an event of this nature, by a tragedy of this dimension, and my heart breaks for the people who died in that and for the family members who now grieve, but I must tell you that there are many people in this country that share the blame and there are many people in the other country on the other side of the border that share the blame.

Let us start with employers over here in this country who knowingly hire people illegally, who are here illegally and, therefore, are hiring illegally. It is against the law to hire someone who is here illegally. Yet we all know, there is not a person here who does not know that this happens quite consistently. Everywhere we look it is a wink and a nod, well, maybe they are, maybe they are not but I am not going to pay any attention because I need this service or that service.

We have companies, Tyson Foods, major, huge U.S. corporations that become involved, at least are accused, I should say, RICO statutes have been used to try and convict some of the executives at Tyson Foods because they say not only did these people, or the allegation is that not only did Tyson executives knowingly hire thousands of people who were here illegally but they actually helped in the business of importing them. They became part of the coyote network. They went and sent people down apparently to scout and learn and get these people smuggled into the country, so they all became part of a smuggling network, not just a chicken-producing company but a smuggling company. These people have a responsibility for the deaths of these 19 individuals, for the pain of their families today.

Everybody who does this and, therefore, entices people to come to this country illegally to seek a job, they are responsible, they are partially responsible for the death of these people and for the hundreds of others who die in the deserts who we do not know. We do not hear their screams. We do not witness their demise. We witness only the remains. We find them from time to time, what is left of them, in the desert. Many times they have been abused by the coyotes who bring them in. They get them to the line, they will rape the women, they steal all the money from the family, and they shove them into the desert. Those cries go unheard most of the time except I have actually had a homeland hero, I think it was last week, who said that on a clear night in the desert, you can hear the screams of these people being abused, of the women being raped, of the families being robbed and beaten.

There are others who I suggest share some responsibility for the deaths of

these people, the people trying to come into this country illegally. Again I do not absolve anyone. They have a responsibility themselves. They took a risk. There are warning signs all over. In the desert we have signs up in the desert about how dangerous it is to come through that area. People put up water. There are groups that go down there and put up water for them along the border. I blame them. I blame some of them. Those groups have a responsibility in the deaths because they entice people forward. I blame our own government for refusing to secure our own borders. When you make it illegal to enter the country but then make it possible to do so, you are in a way encouraging people to break the law and in fact put themselves in peril.

The charade of immigration law that we operate with, where we have laws on the books, we have big organizations, border patrol, Customs, Forest Service people, these people are charged with the responsibility of, quote, border security, especially the border patrol and Customs; yet we all know you can go down and talk to anybody on that border in any of those services and they will tell you what a joke it is. And to pretend to have Members come on this floor as they did just a little bit ago in the different hour and talk about how important homeland security is and how the fact that maybe somebody tried to manipulate homeland security to go find some Texas legislator and oh, my goodness, what a travesty because they could be out, what? Defending the border? When was the last time that happened? And when was the last time they demanded it? I would love to have seen anytime in the past when any Member who was here protesting the use of homeland security for other than border security, or homeland security, I would love to have seen when they were demanding that our borders become secure and that we use the people for that purpose.

And internal security in this country meaning we identify people who are here illegally and deport them. That is what homeland security is all about. If on the one hand you have demanded that from this agency, then you have every right to complain about the fact that they may be misused in some partisan political venture. But believe me, believe me when I say that for years the INS and the border patrol were misused for partisan political purposes, and the most blatant partisan political purpose was when we used them to tell people, to tell Americans that we had border security, that everything was okay because, after all, we have X number of thousands of people on the border; but we sent laws down to them telling them to ignore illegal aliens crossing. We sent regulations telling them that they should wink and look the other way while we continued to tell the American people we have a border policy.

And what happens when you do things like that? People die. People

die. Because they are trying to come across and do something that is still illegal, but they know that their chances of making it are pretty good, so they roll the dice. Well, these people lost. And who is responsible? I am telling you, it lies in this body, in this government, because we do not secure the border. It lies in Mexico and with the Mexican Government, the Mexican Government that actually encourages people to move northward into the United States. They encourage it because they are trying to do something about the huge number of unemployed they have.

When you have got the population of Mexico, the population under 25, Mexicans under 25 have doubled in the last 10 years or so. It is enormous. Most of them are unemployed. It is a very dangerous, very difficult situation. And so Mexico says, gee, how do we do it? Do we actually try to improve our economy by privatizing a lot of the businesses that years ago were made government, specifically Pemex? And what an uproar that caused not too long ago when a committee on which I sit passed an amendment to the State Department reauthorization bill and it said that we should encourage Mexico to actually privatize their state-owned oil companies because if you want to have a better economy, that is one place to start.

But does Mexico try to change their own structure to try and actually address the problems, the economic problems that Mexico faces? On the contrary. No, they told us, mind our own business. And they were absolutely right. It is really not our business. It only becomes our business when they continue to shove their unemployed into the United States. Then it is my business. And I have every right to tell Mexico, shape up, fix your economy. Stop the corruption that goes from the cop on the beat to the highest levels of government. Who does not know about it?

You talk about another charade. The whole government of Mexico in a way is a charade. It is a charade that pretends to be a true government and in fact it is like a huge mob. It is like the Mexican Mafia, only in this case it is in many ways the government. Corruption from the cop on the beat to the highest levels of government. Everybody knows it exists. When you combine that level of corruption with a tendency toward a socialistic economy, believe me, you are going to have some big economic problems. You are going to have horrendous unemployment. You are going to have an under-class that cannot seem to find a way out and that will take any opportunity, take anything available to escape the grinding poverty that your own failed system places on them.

So it is my business. It is the business of every American and especially every Congressman to tell Mexico to fix their own economy when they continue to send us their problems, and

they do so for various purposes. Mexico sends us their unemployed because naturally it helps reduce the pressure, the political pressure that they would otherwise apply in Mexico. It also helps them because when they get here, Mexicans dutifully send home large portions of their own salaries. \$10 billion is the very conservative estimate of exactly how much money is sent to Mexico; \$10 billion a year, that is. That is a huge sum. It is 30 percent of the GDP in Mexico.

This is a problem, therefore, for the United States. There is a challenge to us all, I think, to expect more and to challenge Mexico to do more and expect more because Mexico, by the way, not only receives this economic opportunity and economic benefit by moving their people into the United States that are unemployed but they also achieve a political benefit as was told to me in the most blatant and candid terms by the director of the bureau in Mexico that is a newly created division of the Mexican Government called the Ministry for Mexicans Living in the United States. A fascinating title, if nothing else. Newly created.

According to its director, Mr. Juan Hernandez, its purpose was to move Mexicans into the United States in as many numbers, as big a number as possible, as great a number as possible, to achieve all the benefits I just described: to reduce the political pressure by a large number of unemployed on the one hand; secondly, to gain what they call remittances, the dollars coming back into Mexico making up the 30 percent of their GDP. And another thing that he mentioned that was really amazing and very interesting and something that we should pay attention to. He said, you know, they will influence your government. Millions of Mexicans living in the United States who retain a political allegiance to Mexico, and that was part of his job, to make sure that they did so. He would speak up here for 3 days a week, speak in Mexico for 4 days a week, but his job was to get as many Mexicans, he said, into the United States and then have them retain a political allegiance to Mexico so that they could then bring pressure on our government to change our policies vis-a-vis Mexico.

This is a great plan. You have to admit, it works really well. It is a logical thing for the Mexican Government to do. It is also, however, logical, it seems to me, for us to say, wait a minute. Wait a minute. This is not the relationship we expect with a friendly country. We expect you to help us control our borders, especially after 9/11, especially after we know that people are coming into this country, and we have now gone to code orange again, a heightened level of security. It is heightened here. You will notice it as you come to the Capitol, there will be different things that you see when we get to different levels of security.

But I will tell you what you do not see is you do not see any real attempt

to make our borders more secure. You do not really see anything where somebody says it is time at this level, we now have to place the military on our borders, we have to employ our military assets to help our border patrol, help our Forest Service and help our Customs officials defend the border. You do not hear it. You do not see it. That is not part of the plan. There is no level, there is no color level of danger that says at this point we actually defend our borders. It could be. It could be the color red, the color of blood, because it is American blood that moves us into action sometimes. It is 3,000 dead.

□ 2115

That is why we sometimes get into a discussion of the problems that confront us on our borders.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very dangerous situation we face, and it is made more complicated every single day by the inaction of our own government and by the activities of those who demand that we have open borders, demand that we reduce our vigilance to the extent it exists anyway, demand amnesty for people who are living here illegally. All of these people are really and truly making it more difficult for us to protect American citizens, and they are making it easier for people to come into this country illegally and, in fact, walk into harm as the folks in this truck did, and as I say, it happens throughout the American Southwest that people die in the process.

There is a great deal of blame to go around. We should accept it. We should do something to stop it.

And we really have only two choices Mr. Speaker, only two choices. We can either abandon the border entirely and completely, repeal all the laws that presently are on the books about immigration control, declare ourselves to be an open state, declare the borders to be erased, take away the ports of entry, remove the Customs officials, remove the Border Patrol, disband those services and let people come and go as they want to. That is one way that we can stop this kind of thing from happening. People will not die trying to cross into the United States if there if it is not illegal for them to do so without our permission. That is one way.

I am a no vote, believe me. I am a no vote. I happen to believe that borders matter. I happen to believe that national identity has meaning, that national sovereignty is an important aspect of who we are as Americans. So there are a hundred reasons I can give tonight for being a no vote. But I am saying I would like for this to be put for a vote. I would love for this to be put to a vote.

And the only two options I think we should have are either the one I just described, where we erase the border so we no longer put these people in harm's way and we no longer put our own people in harm's way. We no longer have to go to funerals in Ajo, Arizona, for

people who were killed in defense of the border, young men like Kris Eggle and hundreds of others who have died or been harmed along those borders trying to protect a system that really and truly says to them do not try too hard, let them go by.

But if one is going to do their job, if one is a person of principle as these folks were and certainly Kris Eggle, one is going to do their job to the utmost, one is going to give 100 percent, and he gave his life. I do not want to see that anymore. I do not want to go to any more funerals for people who died on the border in defense of the border, if we are not going to truly defend the border. I would rather give it up, give it all up than to put all these people in harm's way and to tell the American people that there is this thing called the Border Patrol and do not worry, everything is going to be okay. I would rather just play it straight with the American people than I would continue this charade.

But the other alternative, one to which I subscribe, by the way, is one in which we secure our borders. And believe me, Mr. Speaker, even though there are all kinds of people who keep saying this is not possible, that the borders are far too long, far too difficult, the terrain is far too difficult, we cannot do it, I assure my colleagues that is inaccurate. I assure my colleagues that this country has the ability to defend its own borders by the use of technology and the use of human resources. We can do it.

The only thing we do not have, what is missing in the equation, what is missing in the concoction to actually try to defend our border, the theory, the agenda, what is missing is the will to defend our border. It is the will to use the military for fear of the political consequences of doing so.

There is something else that I want to pay just some attention to here briefly. The other issue that needs our attention this evening, because this is rising to a boiling point, is something I hope that we are all going to pay close attention to. There is something going on here that needs our attention.

Mr. Speaker, not too long ago the Mexican Government embarked upon a program to use its consular offices in the United States for the distribution of a card. We call it the matricula consular. This is a card that any government can give to their nationals for the purposes of identification. Nothing wrong with that. Other countries have done it in the past, not to any great extent. A few hundred people may have needed it for some purpose or other.

But Mexico decided not too long ago that if they could not achieve the goal of open borders through this process, if they could not get the United States to abandon the borders and give amnesty to everybody who is here illegally, they would accomplish the goal another way. They knew that there are between 13- and 20 million people who living here illegally. A huge number of those

are from Mexico. So they decided to begin handing out these cards to their nationals living in the United States.

What is interesting about this, of course, is that the card is only, it is only important to someone who is here illegally. If one is here as a legal guest of this country, if one is a legal alien in the United States, they have something that identifies them that the United States Government gave them. It is a stamp on their passport. It is a visa or it is a green card. It is an I-94. There is something we have given them to show that they are here legally. They do not need any other form of identification for our purposes.

So the only real purpose is to give illegal aliens a form of identification that they can then use to obtain services. How does one get the services? Well, they send their consular officers out all over the United States, they go to State legislators, they go to city councils, they go to police departments, and they ask them, and they get the banks to help them with this.

They ask them to accept the matricula consular for purposes of opening bank accounts, opening charge accounts, getting social services, doing all of the things that a "citizen" would do and be able to do just because they are a citizen of the United States, a legal resident.

They have been extremely successful. The Mexican consuls and the Mexican Government have been extremely successful in getting cities and counties to do this. In fact, the State of California has, if I am not mistaken, already passed a law saying they have to or at least the law is in process saying that the State has to take the matricula consular.

This is akin to establishing another immigration system in the United States. How many immigration systems are we going to run? One by the INS, supposedly, we give them that responsibility for homeland security, and one by every bank, one by every city and county in the United States. But that is what is happening.

The banks started this. Wells Fargo was the beginning. Wells Fargo Bank looked out there and said wow, I have got this what they call "unbanked population." This is a euphemism for illegal alien, and I want to get them into my bank, and I want to charge them fees. So what do I do? How do they open an account? They are not here legally. I know. Let us work with the Mexican Government. Let us use this matricula consular. We can get them all accounts that are open.

Now of course banks all over America, Citibank, Citibank is doing this. Most federally chartered banks have now begun to do this or accept the matricula consular. And what happened here just a couple of weeks ago but the United States Department of Treasury promulgated regulations. Get this, if there is not some incredible irony. In reaction to the PATRIOT Act, which was designed, of course, to in-

crease security measures in the United States and so the Department of Treasury had promulgated regulations to implement certain parts of the PATRIOT Act, and so the other week the Department of Treasury in really co-operation with the banks said it is okay to use the matricula consular to open an account. If this is not just an incredible irony. A bill to enhance our security was used to open a loophole a mile wide for somebody to actually use to violate our security.

Because we do not know, no way, no how can anyone possibly tell me that that Mexican matricula consular is in fact a valid document when I have already seen somebody get arrested with that in Colorado who had seven of them. His picture, seven different names. I have seen vans in Chicago that hand these cards out on the street corner. There is no way that they are "valid" or "verifiable." But now the banks can use them. They can use them for identification purposes when somebody comes in to open an account. And I understand that today Treasury was over at the White House lobbying the President of the United States to get him to issue an executive order to say that the whole Federal Government will accept the matricula consular.

This is bizarre beyond imagination. I happen to know, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of people in the government, especially in Homeland Security, who are absolutely opposed to this; and they do not want this Government to accept a foreign government ID for our purposes, for purposes of identification, especially in the banks, so they can launder money, so they can move money around from various accounts.

Because I guarantee the Members that there is absolutely nothing that says that if we can accept the matricula consular from Mexico, what says we cannot possibly accept it from Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, or anywhere else? Their nationals will come here, and already five other countries are now involved with this because they see this as a great way to avoid our immigration law, a way to avoid immigration law. And here the Treasury is aiding and abetting it in reaction to the PATRIOT Act, the PATRIOT Act which tells us that we cannot go rent a library book and not have to worry about the Feds coming to see what we are reading. That is the level of security that we are supposed to employ, and yet they use the PATRIOT Act to write regs to allow people to violate the law.

This is incredible. Banks all over this country are doing it. I am searching for a bank in Colorado that I can withdraw my funds, both my private funds and my campaign funds, because the banks I am presently with accept the matricula consular. I am looking for a bank that does it because I want to move my money, and I certainly would encourage anyone to do exactly the same thing.

The task is trying to find a bank that will not accept the matricula consular now. Because they say to me, hey, the Treasury just said it was okay; and it is now a competitive issue. As the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) was saying, I guess they cannot blame the pharmaceutical companies. Blame us for allowing them to do what they do. That is true. A bank is a profit-making center. They care about one thing, the bottom line. They could not care less whether or not they are aiding and abetting people who are living here illegally, which they are doing. They could not care less. Their issue is, what is the profit here?

And these are multinational banks for the most part. I say multinational because they have absolutely no concern about this country's welfare. They have one concern, and that is the concern of the bottom line.

And, okay, that is the system we live in. That is capitalism. So be it. But what else is capitalism? Capitalism is when we say to Americans we have a right to voice our concern, boycott, do something to show we do not like what they are doing. That is also the right of an American consumer, and I certainly encourage people to do exactly like that.

Like I say, the problem is trying to find somebody that is not already in bed with the traffickers and a bank that is willing to say, no, this is wrong; we will not accept it.

I am told, Mr. Speaker, that World Savings is a bank that will not accept it, and that is great except it is not a commercial bank, and we have to have a commercial account especially for our campaign, for one's business. So we need a national bank, a federally chartered bank, a commercial bank that would agree to live up to a responsibility that we should place on them as good citizens.

And it is amazing. "Citigroup Announces Precedent-Setting Partnership with the National Council of La Raza and Commits \$105 Million to Revitalize Hispanic Communities."

□ 2130

You read this thing, and what you find is they can revitalize it. What they are doing is paying off La Raza, just exactly the same way other businesses have been forced into, coerced into, blackmailed into, funding Jessie Jackson's group. It is the same exact thing going on here.

I wish people would go to their banks and would ask them what their policy is about the matricula consular, and the States, because Colorado just passed a law, the first State in the Nation, passed a law making it illegal for any State agency to accept the matricula consular. This is an important thing. It goes to exactly what we are talking about here in terms of what does it mean to be a citizen. Does it matter that we make laws against people coming in illegally? Does it matter if we are stopping people from getting amnesty if they have come illegally?

What if the entire decision is made at the local level by banks, by city councils, who are themselves so fearful of the electorate in their area, so they say I have to make friends with this constituency, so let us accept this matricula consular. Let us tell our police to accept it, tell our cities, our urban authorities, our housing authorities to accept it. Let us go ahead and give amnesty. The Congress will not do it, so we will do it.

Well, I hope, Mr. Speaker, that people all over this country will look at this issue, will ask their banks, will ask their city council, will ask their police, why are you accepting this bogus form of identity that is not given to you by the Government of the United States or by the State of whatever, but by a foreign government, at a time when we are suspicious and fearful of exactly what kind of thing can happen when people come in and steal identities in the United States, open up accounts under bogus names, transfer money into terrorist organizations?

There are all kinds of things that can happen. It becomes a breeder document. This is a very dangerous thing, and I wonder what our government is going to do. I wonder what happened today at the White House, after the Treasury Department was over there trying to get them, Treasury and State were trying to get the Federal Government, the President, to agree to accept this matricula.

I know the Homeland Defense Agency is opposed to it. I know. I saw a draft that was produced by Homeland Defense that said this should not be, that no Federal agency should accept this, and that draft was making its way up to the White House, up to the highest level. That is why all of a sudden all of the activity is over there, because they are getting ready to announce the policy of the Federal Government on the matricula consular. And I urge everyone, Mr. Speaker, everyone to understand that, to recognize it, and to pay close attention to what happens here. This is important for us all as Americans. Pay close attention to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, this issue of the matricula consular is just one of many that we have to deal with in terms of immigration and immigration reform, but it is a great example of the threat we face and the many facets of immigration and the need for immigration reform. I will, for as long as I can anyway, continue to bring these issues to the attention of this body and to the American people.

THE FACTS ABOUT FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to spend a few minutes talking about one of the fastest grow-

ing companies in America today. It pays its workers somewhere between 23 cents an hour and \$1.15 an hour. It has a wide array of products. It pays no Federal taxes, it pays no State or local taxes. As I said, it is one of the fastest growing companies in America today.

There are a number of reasons why this company is growing so fast. It has a lock on one of the largest customers in America. That customer cannot buy products or services from anybody else, unless that company provides that customer a waiver saying, all right, we are permitting you to go and purchase product from a competitive source.

It is a company that, on bid day, where companies X, Y and Z have submitted their bids, this company can say at the bid opening, X, Y and Z, please provide me with all of your bid documents, and this fourth company can come back and say, you know, I will get back to you in a week or so to see whether I can match those bids. I will submit my bid in a week, now that I know what these other three companies have bid, and I will see if I can match their price. By the way, if I can match their price, the bid is mine, regardless of whether the customer believes the quality meets the standard that the customer has set, whether the delivery schedule meets the standard that the customer has set, and now we know that they can match on price.

So you have a couple of questions. Who is this fast growing company? My colleagues are probably saying, that sounds like a company I would like to buy stock in. The economy is slow, not as healthy as what we would like it to be. Who is this fast growing company, and what customer do they have a lock on? That is a very strange procedure by which to purchase a product or a service.

Well, let me tell you that the company that is the fast growing company is called Federal Prison Industries. The customer is the American taxpayer as represented by the Federal Government. The company is called Federal Prison Industries. Its other name is UNICOR, and this is UNICOR's annual report for 2002, which was just released.

Let me give you some of the highlights of their annual report. Like many annual reports, they give you a history of the company. This company was formed in the 1930s. The competition was described as "will reduce to a minimum competition with private industry or free labor."

So in the 1930s, when the Federal Government said we need to have prisoners working, we need to have them employed, as the Federal Government established Federal Prison Industries, as they established UNICOR, they said we need to make sure that we keep Federal prisoners, people who have broken the law, that we keep them busy and we keep them occupied in such a way that there is minimum competition with private industry or private labor. It is a great goal; it is a great objective. That is the mandate of Federal Prison Industries.

Too bad, 70 years later this company has forgotten its roots. This goes through this administration, it goes through the Justice Department. Under this administration, Federal Prison Industries has become a growth industry.

Net sales increased last year from \$583 million to \$678 million. Imagine that you had constituents in your hometown who worked in the office furniture industry, who worked in the textile industry, who made automotive components, who made a whole series or range of products. Many of these industries are hurting.

I have visited cut-and-sew textile factories in the southern part of this country. I have visited them in Pennsylvania, I have visited them in New York City, I have visited them in the Northeast. Cut-and-sew operations in America are a tough business.

For Federal Prison Industries it is a growth business, such a growth business that a little less than a year ago, Hathaway Shirts in Maine had to shut their doors after a major shirt order went to Federal Prison Industries and did not go to private competition, to the private sector.

Those individuals who represent the folks of Maine, who represent the workers at Hathaway Shirts, now have to go back to those workers, to that company, to that community, and say, what? Your job is gone. Not only is your job gone, your business is gone, the doors are padlocked. But we have kept Federal prison inmates busy. We have lost your jobs, but we have created new jobs in our Federal Prison Industries.

Some may say this is what it means to create high-quality, high-paying jobs in America. But for these 21,779 workers it means being paid at a rate of 23 cents to \$1.15 an hour. Not a bad deal. Not a bad deal for the Federal prisons, but a terrible deal for the workers at Hathaway Shirts; a terrible deal for that community in Maine that now has a factory whose doors have been padlocked, that has lost revenue in the tax base.

There is something wrong with this picture when the administration decides that creating jobs in Federal prisons is more important than keeping employers employing people in the private sector. But like I said, at least the folks in this Justice Department have defined Federal Prison Industries as a growth industry in America and an industry that they have grown by 16 percent over the last year, and where, in some cases, they have put in place plans to grow certain market segments by up to 50 percent in 2003.

Where are these factories? Are there just a few factories? No, there are a lot of factories around, and they may be in your community, and they may be in your backyard.

There are 111 factories in 71 different locations: Alderson, West Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Beaumont, Texas; Buckner, North Carolina; Dublin, California; Edgefield, South Carolina; Fort